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more difficult problems, such as the questions arising out of the case of *Crawshay v. Thornton*, and had he traced through the leading cases the development of the principal doctrines and then stated the leading principles, instead of contenting himself with stating principles and citing cases, he would not have produced a handy general digest for ready reference, but he would have made a real contribution to legal science and enabled the lawyer or student to intelligently study the more difficult problems connected with a very interesting branch of the law.

H. A.

THE LAW OF VOID JUDICIAL SALES. By A. C. FREEMAN. Fourth Edition. St. Louis: Central Law Journal Company. 1902. Pp. 341.

Judge Freeman's work on Void Judicial Sales which was published in 1877, is so well known to the profession that in noticing the present edition it is unnecessary to call attention to the scope and execution of the work. It is sufficient to remind the reader that it is an exhaustive treatise on void execution, judicial and probate sales and the legal and equitable rights of purchasers, the constitutionality of special legislation validating void sales and authorizing involuntary sales in the absence of judicial proceedings. In this edition, which is the first since 1890, the text has been considerably enlarged and the citation of cases brought down to date. Unlike many new editions, considerable care seems to have been exercised in the selection of recent cases; so that we do not find, what is so frequently the case in new editions, that the recent citations have little or no bearing on the text. Apparently in this edition, where a recent case or line of cases did not properly belong under one of the principles pointed out in the original work, it has been made the subject of a new paragraph.

H. A.

JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL COURTS. A compilation of the HON. AMOS M. THAYER. Revised edition. St. Louis, Mo.: W. W. Brewer & Co.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE LAW OF CONTRACT. By HON. AMOS M. THAYER.

These two works which were published some time ago for use in Judge Thayer's courses in the St. Louis Law School, have only been recently received. The Synopsis of the Law of Contract is a collection of some 277 rules or principles arranged in logical order. Some of the principles have cases cited at the end for their support, but for a considerable portion of the

principles, no case is given. The pamphlet on the Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts is similarly constructed and consists of some seventy-one rules or sections. In this pamphlet, however, the rules or sections are longer and more like the sections of a text-book. For the purpose of preparing in the shortest possible time to pass a law examination consisting of definitions, we may suppose that these books are useful, but of course they cannot be used to acquire any real knowledge of law.

H. A.